

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 579

By Summerville

A RESOLUTION to honor the memory of Kenneth Field Gardner  
of Prospect.

WHEREAS, the members of this General Assembly were greatly saddened to learn of the death of Kenneth Field Gardner; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Gardner was an exemplary public servant and consummate professional who worked assiduously to improve the quality of life for his fellow citizens in numerous capacities; and

WHEREAS, Kenneth Gardner served with acumen and alacrity as a commercial construction supervisor for Venture Construction Company, in which position he earned the respect of his peers and superiors alike for the exemplary quality of his work; and

WHEREAS, born in Zanesville, Ohio, to Giles County natives, Mr. Gardner lived in various cities all over the country due to his father's military career, but he always thought of Tennessee as home; and

WHEREAS, a member of the Baptist Church as a child, he became active in the boy scout troop at St. John's Evangelical and Reformed Church, where he would meet his future wife, Ruth Carolynn Hofferberth; and

WHEREAS, the young Mr. Gardner attended Wilbur Wright High School in Dayton, Ohio, graduated from Parker Cooperative High School, and studied civic engineering at the University of Tennessee, Knoxville (UTK); and

WHEREAS, Mr. Gardner later entered the Naval Aviation Program in Florida to pursue his keen interest in a flight career and completed his commitment as an enlisted man on the heavy cruiser, *Macon*, continuing in the patriotic tradition of the Volunteer State; and

WHEREAS, upon his discharge from the United States Navy, he completed the requirements his Bachelor of Science degree in Geology at UTK and moved with his family to Houston, Texas, where he constructed bridges, roads, and various buildings, including

hospitals, schools, and high rises, greatly improving his community and beautifying the Houston cityscape; and

WHEREAS, when his mother's health began to wane, Kenneth and Ruth Gardner moved with his parents to Giles County, finally returning home to the great State of Tennessee; and

WHEREAS, upon his retirement from the Venture Construction Company in Brentwood, Mr. Gardner found happiness and fulfillment in his new woodcarving hobby, in the rich tapestry of wildlife surrounding his home, and in the majesty of the Smoky Mountains; and

WHEREAS, in addition to these recreations, he was actively involved in the American Legion, the Giles County Veterans Alliance, and many other community organizations; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Gardner was also deeply devoted to his family, and he always endeavored to remain true to family values of the highest order; and

WHEREAS, a kind and caring son, he was preceded in death by his parents, Julius Braden Gardner and Irma Ruth Brownlow Gardner; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Gardner enjoyed the loving companionship of Ruth Carolynn Gardner for fifty-six years and was the proud father and father-in-law of Braden Gardner and Tamara Holly and her husband, Dennis; and

WHEREAS, his memory will continue to be cherished by his wife and children; his brother, Steven Gardner and his wife, Maryann; his six grandchildren; and his nephew; and

WHEREAS, Kenneth Gardner leaves behind an indelible legacy of integrity and probity in public life, compassion and loyalty in private life, and diligence and dedication in all his chosen endeavors; and

WHEREAS, it is fitting that this General Assembly should pause to remember the bountiful life of this exceptional public servant and human being; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED SEVENTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, that we honor the memory of Kenneth Field Gardner, reflecting fondly upon his impeccable character and his stalwart commitment to living the examined life with courage and conviction.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that we express our sympathy and offer our condolences to the family of Kenneth Gardner.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.